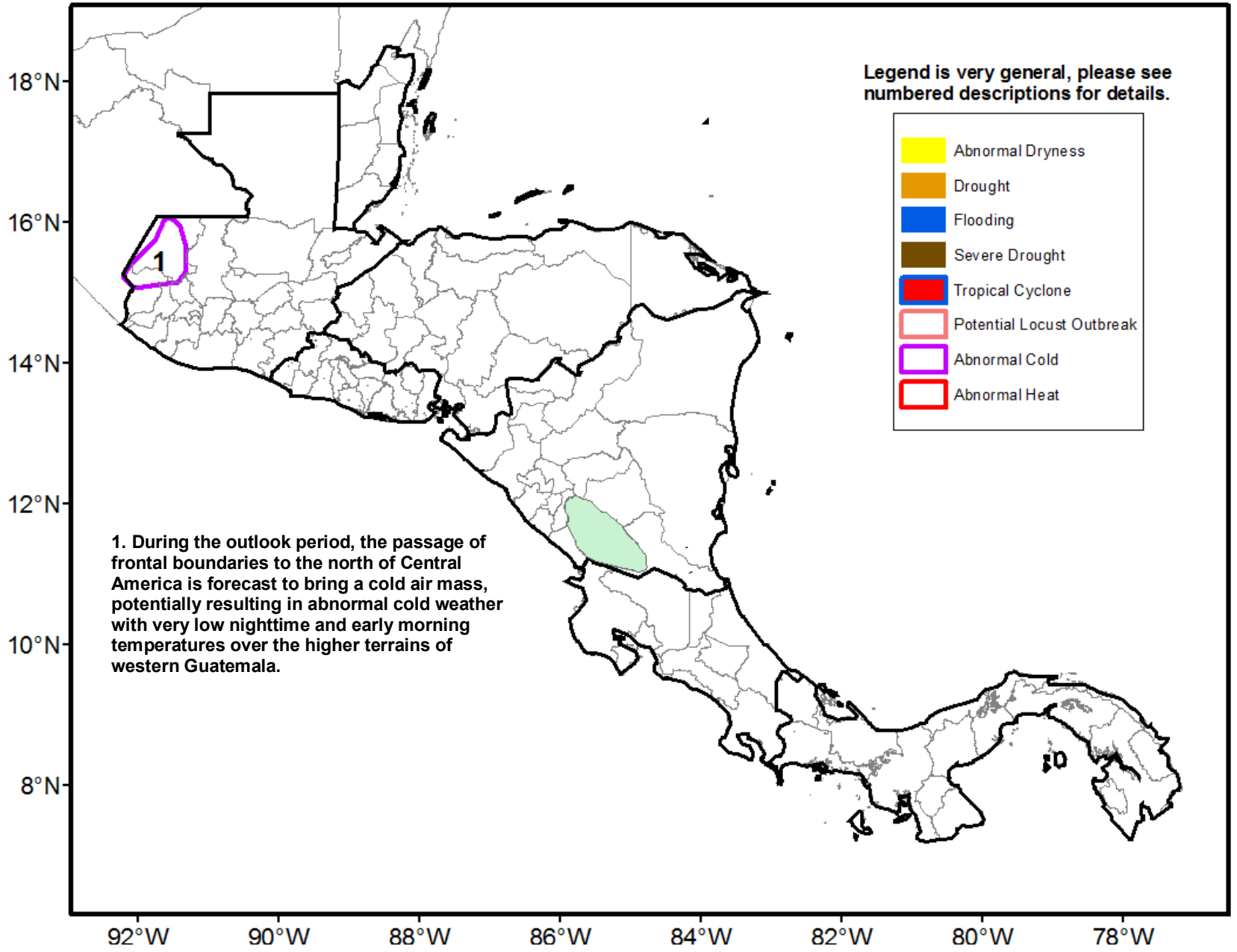
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
February 27 – March 4, 2020

The forecast passage of frontal systems to the north may result in abnormal cold over western Guatemala.



1. During the outlook period, the passage of frontal boundaries to the north of Central America is forecast to bring a cold air mass, potentially resulting in abnormal cold weather with very low nighttime and early morning temperatures over the higher terrains of western Guatemala.

Enhanced rains are forecast in northern Honduras during the outlook period.

During this past observation period, widespread light to moderate (up to 50 mm) rains were observed in northern Guatemala, Belize, and the Gulf of Honduras. Little to light (< 25 mm) rains fell in eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and eastern Costa Rica, while suppressed rainfall was observed over the remainders of the region. Over the past thirty days, much of Central America has received near-average rainfall. Though, portions of northern Guatemala, northern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, southern Costa Rica, and western Panama registered above-average rainfall, while Belize, and the Gulf of Honduras recorded below-average rainfall, according to the CPC Unified precipitation data set. Since December of the past year, above-average rainfall with seasonal surpluses ranging between 50-200 mm, was observed along the Atlantic facing regions of Central America. In contrast, below-average rainfall was registered along the Gulf of Honduras. With the observed seasonable rainfall on a week to week basis, vegetation conditions remained mostly favorable, based on recent vegetation products. Nonetheless, the seasonally dry conditions and occasionally strong winds may favor forest fire hazards over many local areas.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts indicated enhanced with moderate to locally heavy rains along the Atlantic littorals of Central America. Light to moderate rains are also expected in western and the northern parts of Guatemala. Meanwhile, the forecast passage of frontal boundaries across northern Central America is expected to potentially bring a cold air mass, which may result in abnormal cold weather and very low nighttime and early morning temperatures over the higher terrains of the region.

Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CPC-Unified Precipitation Climatology (mm)
February 26 – March 4, 2020

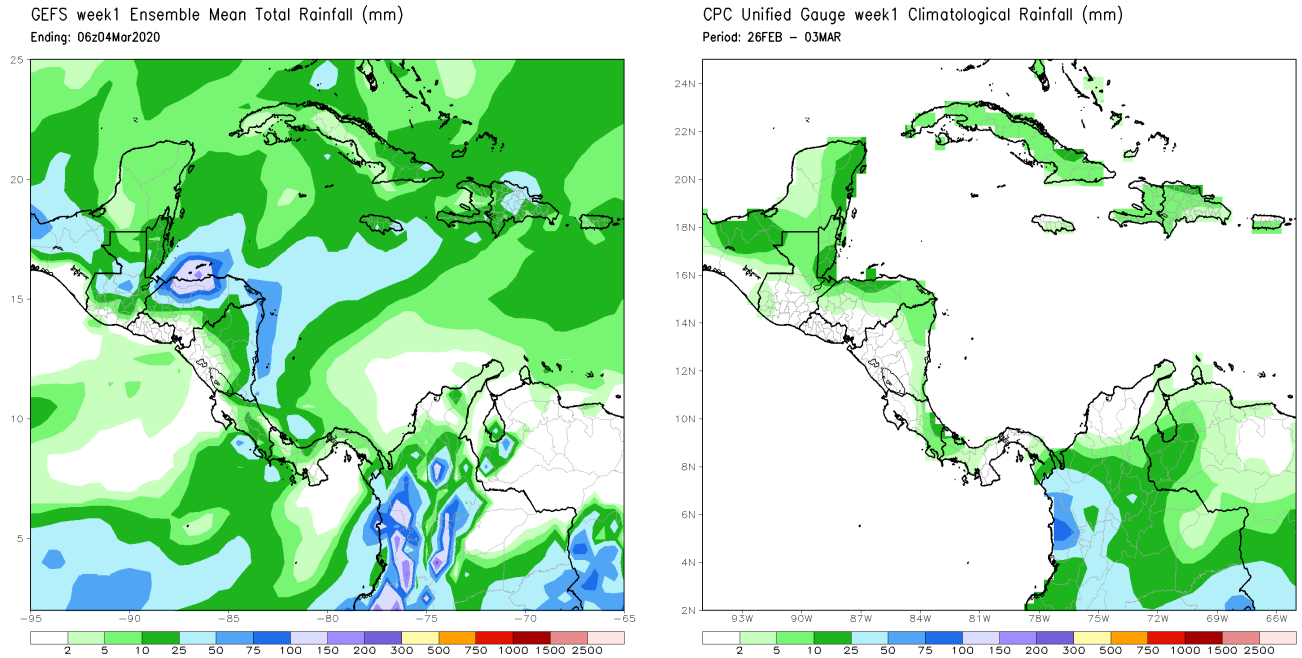


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.